

Claims

1. A method for representing one or more menu buttons (INV1,...,INV4) for an electronic menu, the menu comprising one or more menu pages (MP1,MP2,MP3) and the menu button having an associated state, wherein the possible states associated with a button may comprise unselected, selected or activated state, **characterized in that**
- a data segment representing the menu is stored on a removable storage medium, wherein a menu page is composed of separate objects, the objects being menu buttons (BO) or non-button objects (NBO), and wherein said separate objects are described by separate data blocks contained in said data segment;
 - a menu button (INV1), the menu button having an associated function, is not represented on the display; and
 - the menu button (INV1) not represented on the display may be selected by pressing a key or key sequence on a remote control, wherein the state of the menu button changes automatically from selected to activated.
2. Method according to claim 1, wherein said data blocks describing the separate objects within a menu page have the same structure for non-button objects (NBO) and menu buttons (BO).
3. Method according to any of the previous claims, wherein a sound or sound sequence may be associated to the state of a menu button not represented on the

display, the sound or sound sequence being played back upon entry of the button (INV1) into the associated state.

- 5 4. Method according to any of the previous claims, wherein the menu button not represented on the display is not displayable at all, and upon selection is automatically activated.
- 10 5. Method according to the previous claim, wherein a displayed menu page is part of a multi-page menu, the multi-page menu being a group of menu pages (MP1,MP2,MP3) that logically form a single menu page, but with different combinations of hierarchically
- 15 equivalent buttons being visible or invisible.
6. Method according to the previous claim, wherein the multi-page menu is a chapter menu.
- 20 7. Decoder for decoding an electronic menu, the menu comprising one or more menu pages (MP1,MP2,MP3) and the menu pages (MP1,MP2,MP3) comprising at least one menu button (INV1), the menu button having an associated state, wherein the possible states
- 25 associated with a button may comprise unselected, selected or activated state, **characterized in** that the decoder includes
- 30 - means for identifying and separating, from a data segment being retrieved from a removable storage medium and representing the menu, separate data blocks relating to separate objects, the objects being menu buttons or non-button objects;

- means for generating a menu button object (INV1),
the menu button object (INV1) having an associated
function and being not represented on the display;
and
 - 5 - means for changing the state of the menu button
 (INV1) not represented on the display from
 unselected to activated upon a user pressing a key
 or key sequence on a remote control.
- 10 8. Decoder according to the previous claim, wherein the
 means for generating a menu button object (INV1), the
 menu button object having an associated function and
 being not represented on the display, automatically
 executes the button command associated with said menu
15 button.
9. Decoder according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the means
 for generating a menu button object (INV1) may also
 generate menu objects (BO,NBO) being represented on
20 the display.